

## **2015 Good Neighbor Award**

### **David Hoddinott**

Nominated by Marian Osher

It was a hot Sunday evening just after 7 on August 2. I was riding on the Metro from DC to Rockville. As the train pulled out of White Flint station, a man sitting behind me suddenly stood up, and collapsed forcefully onto the center floor of the metro car. He did not get up—and he was unconscious.

It took several seconds for the other passengers to react. Somebody asked where the help call button was. I grabbed my cell phone and called 911. Just as I reached 911, I saw a young man kneeling on the floor with a water bottle and a piece of cloth. I later learned that his name was David Hoddinott. The 911 operator asked me questions about breathing, and pulse. David checked the man's pulse and his breathing. He continually mopped the man's neck and head to cool him down. Sometimes he took the phone to give information to the 911 operator, but he stayed on the floor with the unconscious man, doing what he could to monitor his pulse and his breathing, while gently mopping his head, neck and arms to cool him down. We were able to get the train number and the car number from other passengers.

The train finally pulled into Twin Brook Station. The other passengers were told to leave the train, but David stayed with the man until the emergency medical personnel came. After their arrival, the man finally regained consciousness and was taken away by ambulance. I saw him sit up and reach out his hand to David. I was on the platform and rode with David to the Rockville Station. I told him that the man was so fortunate that David was on that train—that David might have saved his life. When I asked him how he knew what to do, he was very modest and credited his training as a Boy Scout. But to me, David is a special kind of hero. He acted calmly and thoughtfully, using his training to help a stranger, without hesitation. The world is better a place because David is a part of it.

### **Nadia Hirsh:**

Nominated by Jack Martinelli

I nominate Nadia Hirsh, 9 Marcia Court, Rockville, MD 20851. Mrs. Hirsh's daycare location has helped many parents with young children and infants to go to their parent's daily employment locations knowing Nadia Hirsh will provide exception care and security for their children. Marcia Court neighbors have the best regard for Nadia knowing she will acknowledge any circumstances about any of their concerns. The city should recognize all daycare business owners who invest their energy, time and resources to help parents arrive at their employment having the assurance their children are safe in the hands of good people. In recognition of one exception daycare person, Nadia Hirsh, it will be appropriate the city recognizes the contribution of all city child caregivers that help parents in need of a secure and safe environment. With loving daycare experiences, a child will remember and recall a wonderful experience.

**Aileen Klein**

Nominated by Sen. Cheryl Kagan

Aileen Klein has been involved in the Rockville community for many years. I am nominating her for this award on behalf of her work for the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County (FOLMC). In her role as a board member, she has promoted leadership to strengthen local library communities in each of the FOLMC's 17 chapters. As a board member of the Rockville Chapter of Friends of the Library for the past nine years, Mrs. Klein has been responsible for the opening gala, raising more than \$60,000 for needed library enhancements for users of library branches in the City of Rockville. In addition, Mrs. Klein has contributed greatly to the upcoming 10-year anniversary celebration for the Rockville Library; spearheaded weekly book sales at the Wednesday farmer's market to "recycle" used books; and has run "Heads Up" programs, including a recent session for senior citizens as they seek to downsize and declutter their homes. Over the past year (-and-then-some), Mrs. Klein has worked tirelessly to promote the revitalization of the Twinbrook branch, in particular, which is currently undergoing renovation. The Twinbrook branch will reopen at the end of 2015 with improvements that will include expanded information and research desks, new carpeting, an improved children's book space, and updated restrooms. Much of that effort was made possible by Mrs. Klein's advocacy and fundraising. Aileen Klein's contributions to Rose Hill Falls and the City of Rockville are both large and small. Her contributions help residents of all ages learn and engage in their community. From toddlers who are introduced to books and reading through the local public library to adults and senior citizens who use the public library as a place to gain knowledge, find friendship and learn new skills, her efforts contribute to the quality of life to which we are accustomed in Rockville. Ari Brooks, Executive Director of FOLMC, praised Aileen stating, "she's one of the biggest library lovers I know. She has contributed greatly to the quality of life of Rockville residents." Without her leadership, advocacy, thoughtfulness, follow-through and kindness, the City of Rockville would be a very different place.

**Bruce Redding**

Nominated by Melissa Bourne

Bruce is an elderly (80 year old) man who lives among many senior residents. I am not even sure his health is great but every winter when we get snow...regardless of how much Bruce brings out his huge snowblower and walks the neighborhood clearing off not only sidewalks but driveways for these seniors. If he did not do this many residents would be trapped in their homes until the snow melts. He does it with a smile and without being asked. Many times he completes the job without the resident even being aware of it. He should be recognized for his effort and thoughtfulness because he has done this job for many years and truly the neighborhood benefits from his selfless act of kindness.

**Charles Simpson:**

Nominated by Sarah Navid

Bob has taken up walking now that he is retired. He regularly patrols Wootton Parkway from Rockville Pike and adjacent to the Hungerford neighborhood for trash and collects and disposes of it. Most neighbors have probably noticed Bob with his "pick-up stick" and have enjoyed the benefits of his action as they drive, bicycle or walk along Wootton Parkway